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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

"NARRATIVES FROM THE WAR" AND "EVENTS OF THE DAY"

(Some of the replies from our readers to a question asked in the January JOURNAL as to the value of these departments.)

From Massachusetts:

"I think the departments are admirable, especially for nurses who are not general readers." E. O. B. "I would say emphatically, Yes. Those items are among what I look for first and are always full of interest." I. A. D.

From Delaware:

"Though I read the New York *Times* and some magazines on the war subjects, I am sure I should miss the departments. In them I read things which I seldom see or sometimes quite overlook in my own reading. I hope they will be continued." S. J. R.

From Ohio:

"It seems to me the departments you mention are very valuable. I read the daily papers and yet I find these articles always full of real news and so I fancy the nurse away from other sources of news must enjoy them hugely and be broadened by them." C. L. B.

From Pennsylvania:

"I wish to say that it would be very regrettable to me to see them dropped and humbly request that they still have a place in the publication." H. G. G.

From Illinois:

"I hope you will be able to continue the non-professional departments. Events of the Day is especially beneficial to nurses who are too busy to keep up with the daily papers. The articles are clear and concise, I for one have particularly enjoyed them." A. A. N.

From District of Columbia:

"To me the JOURNAL has become much more interesting since you started them (the departments) and I have taken it for about nine years. There is so much of value and information, as it were in a nutshell, that I should very much miss them were they to be withdrawn. I appreciate so much all the helpful editorials and what you send out is going to help hundreds of young women who find the strain of life great after taking up nursing." J. B.

From California:

"I should like to express my appreciation of each of these departments which represent such careful and painstaking effort on the part of their respective editors. A large number of nurses find it difficult, if not impossible, to read the mass

of current literature of the day. They must depend on the best reviews at their disposal. If anywhere, we can look to our nursing journal to give us an unbiased, though limited, summary of such events together with many interesting incidents which reach it from sources not open to other magazines. There are few nurses who are not more or less intimately connected with this world war, to them it is a matter of vital interest. Again why should we make our JOURNAL, strictly speaking, purely professional? Why not have it big enough and broad enough to help to a broader view? I should like through the JOURNAL to express a word of thanks to each of these able women and sincerely trust we may have the pleasure of reading more from their pens." E. D. V.

From Kansas:

"I should much rather the space were used for professional matter, as we read about these other things in the daily papers and other magazines, and this JOURNAL is about the only place where we can read about the work of the nursing world. It may not matter so much to those who practice in the cities or hospitals, but it means a lot to us who do private nursing far from any big nursing centre." T. A.

THE ADJUSTMENT OF CHARGES

DEAR EDITOR: Recently I was engaged for an obstetrical case, and at the time my services were required I was out of town and a graduate nurse from a neighboring town was called. After forty-eight hours I was able to go to the patient, having been notified to come, and two nurses were employed for a week. At the end of this time the other nurse left and charged \$25 for her week's work. Now I have always charged \$30 for this kind of work. The first nurse claimed that her school did not permit an extra charge of this kind. I would like to hear from private duty nurses in other sections in regard to this, as the occurrence really put me in a bad light with my patient, though I did not feel like reducing my terms. I feel that no hospital or association should have a compulsory schedule of charges, as it seems to me that no one is in a better position than the nurse herself to judge what her services are worth. I have always charged according to the amount of work and the financial condition of the patient. I believe I have distributed as many charity dollars as the average nurse. I also feel that nurses would be justified in raising their terms on all kinds of cases, as they, as well as others, feel the high cost of living.

Illinois.

"R. N."

[We have always maintained that a nurse should regulate her fees, as does the physician, according to her ability and the patient's means. In the instance quoted, the writer was justified in charging what she thought her services were worth, but she should not object to the other nurse doing the same. The first nurse should not raise her accustomed rate of charge because the second one wished her to do so, each should decide for herself. We agree with the writer that rates should not be established for nurses by any school or by any association.—Ed.]

THE GRADUATE'S UNIFORM

DEAR EDITOR: Why not have a universal uniform for graduates? The question ever comes—what kind of goods shall I use for my white uniforms? So many objections to the goods now used. Some too expensive, others wrinkle